

**OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
CONTINGENCY PLAN Q & A DOCUMENT  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2013**

We continue to hope that Congress will reach an agreement to avoid a government shutdown, but we are working to prepare for all possible scenarios.

**Will coal permit reviews continue or will they be halted if the government shuts down?**

Coal mining permit reviews and issuance would be halted if the government shuts down.

**Will any mines have to shut down or reclamation work have to stop?**

Because mine inspections are primarily carried out by states that have achieved primacy, mining could continue. Reclamation is also primarily overseen by the states, so it could also continue in the event of a government shutdown.

**Will OSM have staff on hand to support emergencies?**

Yes. Certain emergency operations will continue. These include:

- Abandoned Mine Land Emergency declarations if requested by States. This is because some states require these declarations in order to expedite abatement of problems related to public health and safety, or environmental damage and protection of property.
- Federal Abandoned Mine Land emergencies. These are unanticipated emergency situations caused by past coal mining that if left unaddressed will cause public health and safety issues or damage to the environment or property.
- Citizen Complaints – alleged violation or imminent harm on active coal mine sites. OSM's Regional Directors will take calls from citizens, and forward to the appropriate State regulatory authority or OSM will address if necessary in order to initiate/remedy an imminent harm situation.
- Federal regulation of active coal mine sites – imminent danger to health, safety, and environmental damage. OSM is responsible for the regulation of surface coal mining operations in Tennessee, Washington, and on Indian Lands. Regular inspections of mine operations will not occur. If OSM is notified of an imminent harm situation at a site, OSM would have staff on call to address the situation.

**Will OSM continue to provide technical assistance or training to States and Tribes?**

No. These activities would be discontinued during a shutdown.

**Will OSM continue to provide access to OSM data?**

No. Access to information provided to States and Industry via websites, such as the Applicant Violator System, Abandoned Mine Land Inventory, and technical software applications would be discontinued during a shutdown.